

Travancore-Cochin Co-operative Societies Bill

Minister for Law, Finance and Revenue (Sri. A. J. John): I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Travancore-Cochin Co-operative Societies Bill.

Sri. T. T. Kesavan Sastri: I second it.

Travancore-Cochin Land Tax Bill

Minister for Law, Finance and Revenue (Sri. A. J. John): I beg to introduce the Travancore-Cochin Land Tax Bill.

Sri. K. Kochukuttan: I second it.

Sri. A. J. John: I move that the Travancore-Cochin Land Tax Bill be taken up for consideration at once.

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇന്ന് നിലവിലുള്ളതായ ലാൻഡ് ടാക്സ് പ്രൊക്ലമേഷനനുസരിച്ച് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള എല്ലാഭൂമികൾക്കും സെൻറിന് ൩ പൈ വെയ്യുള്ള ബേസിക് ടാക്സ് ആണ് നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്നത്. അത് ൧൧൨൧ മുതലാണ് നടപ്പിൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ-കൊച്ചി സംയോജനം കഴിഞ്ഞശേഷം കൊച്ചിയിലും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ഭൂനികുതിസംബന്ധിച്ച് പല വ്യത്യാസങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടെന്നും അതുകൊണ്ട് കൊച്ചിയിലെ ഭൂനികുതിയും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെപ്പോലെ ബേസിക് ടാക്സ് ആക്കണമെന്നും കൊച്ചി വിഭാഗത്തിൽ പെട്ട പല ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർമാരും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയുണ്ടായി. ആ അവസരങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് വളരെ കാർഷ്ടമായി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതാണെന്നും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെപ്പോലെ ബേസിക് ടാക്സ് കൊച്ചിയിലും നടപ്പിലാക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നതാണെന്നും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിരുന്നു. അതനുസരിച്ചാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ ബില്ലിന് ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിലവിലുള്ള ൧൧൨൧-ലെ ലാൻഡ് ടാക്സ് പ്രൊക്ലമേഷനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണ് ഈ ബിൽ രൂപീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. പറയത്തക്ക വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ ഒന്നുംതന്നെ ഇതിലില്ല. ഇതനുസരിച്ച് കൊച്ചിയിലുള്ള എല്ലാ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലേയും നിലങ്ങൾക്കും പുറയിടങ്ങൾക്കുമെല്ലാം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെപ്പോലെ തന്നെ ഒരു സെൻറിന് ൩ പൈ വീതമുള്ള ടാക്സ് ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഈ ബിൽ സഭയുടെ പരിഗണനയ്ക്കായി ഞാൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Sri. K. Sivarama Pillai: I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. Though the Hon'ble Minister stated at the outset, that there are no fundamental differences between the existing Act and the present Bill, I do find that there are changes which are of a vital character. For instance, in section 6 (1) (a) exemption is granted to Sri. Pandaravaka lands. It is stated that Sripandaravaka lands belonging to the Sri Padmanabhaswami temple are exempted. It has been stated in this House that illegal taxes are extracted from properties which are Pandaravaka lands but which do not belong to the Sri Padmanabhaswami temple. If this Bill is sent to the Select Committee, there is ample scope for adding a schedule to the Act as regards properties exempted.

I welcome the step taken by this Government in putting an end to irrigation cess. Along with that, Government have also reserved the right of stopping the water cess. It has been recommended by the Land Policy Committee that water cess in south Travancore has to be stopped.

[Sri. K. Sivarama Pillai]

If you read the Proclamation of 1121 you will find that the water cess was enhanced in South Travancore on the ground that more lands were brought under agriculture. That has been criticised and condemned by the Land Policy Committee. There was no necessity to increase the water cess since South Travancore was also paying a lot of money on other items to Government. It has been admitted by the Government that they are procuring more than 60 lakhs of paras of paddy from the whole State. Out of this, from Thovala and Agasteeswaram, from 15,000 acres of paddy land they are giving 20 lakhs of paras. For the last eight years Government have got Rs. 120 lakhs from these two taluks unlawfully for the benefit of other people. So, I would impress upon the Government that the water cess must be stopped. These things are to be gone into in detail. In this connection I must suggest to the hon'ble Members from Cochin area that by the introduction of basic tax in Cochin the existing tax would never be enhanced. If that is accepted we will have to find out what will be the real loss to Government what exactly would be the land revenue from those places. These things can be gone through by the Select Committee. Therefore, I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Sri. A. Thanu Pillai: Sir, there are very many matters that have to be gone into in the Select Committee. The Bill itself is to provide for the levy of a land tax of a uniform rate on all lands in Travancore and Cochin. The preamble is to that effect. Therefore very many considerations arise here. What is the uniform rate to be fixed? Then, we have to see what are the lands in respect of which this basic tax should be levied. In clause 6, we find a number of exceptions. Are all these kinds be excluded? What about Sripandaravaka lands and Kandukrishi lands. Now the Kandukrishi lands have become Government lands. We have to consider whether basic tax could not be introduced in respect of those lands as well. So also in the case of Sripadam and Edavagai lands. Therefore, it appears to me that this is a Bill which should be referred to a Select Committee. Government are not going to lose anything either. Already there is a law which provides for the levy of land tax both in Travancore and Cochin. And, the hon'ble Minister has taken care to put in a clause that "It shall be deemed to have taken effect on the 1st day of April 1951." If basic tax is not levied early enough then he will have that provision. I thought that the hon'ble Minister himself would move that the bill should go to a Select Committee.

Sri. C. V. Iyyu : I oppose the Bill, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : But there is an amendment.

Sri. C. V. Iyyu : I want to speak on some important points on that amendment also.

Sri. A. J. John: Sir, I agree with the suggestion that the Bill may be referred to a Select Committee and move that the Bill may be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

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| 1. Sri. A. Thanu Pillai. | 5. Sri. N. P. Varghese. |
| 2. Sri. K. Sivarama Pillai. | 6. Sri. G. Chandrasekhara Pillai. |
| 3. Sri. G. P. Nilakanta Pillai. | 7. Sri. P. Nanoo, and |
| 4. Sri. A. M. Thomas. | 8. Sri. C. V. Iyyu. |

Sri. A. K. Patchu Pillai: Sir, I would suggest the name of Sri. K. Balakrishna Menon to the Committee.

Sri. A. J. John: I have no objection. The quorum may be fixed at 4.

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